

Case 3172

Leptodactylus chaquensis Cei, 1950 (Amphibia, Anura): proposed conservation of the specific name

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the widely used name *Leptodactylus chaquensis* Cei, 1950 for a subtropical South American frog. The term *typica* was applied in 1948 to what was then supposed to be a 'forma' of *L. ocellatus* Linnaeus, 1758; under Article 45.6.4 of the Code the name *L. typicus* Cei, 1948 is available as a senior synonym of *L. chaquensis*, but it has never been used and its suppression is proposed.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Anura; LEPTODACTYLIDAE; *Leptodactylus*; *Leptodactylus chaquensis*; *Leptodactylus ocellatus*; frogs; South America.

1. In a paper (Cei, 1948) on the seasonal reproductive behaviour of the Argentinian frog *Leptodactylus ocellatus* (Linnaeus, 1758) I described (pp. 308–312) two 'razas' (races) or 'formas', to which I applied, for purposes of discussion, the terms '*typica*' and '*reticulata*'. Other aspects of their reproductive behaviour were described the following year (Cei, 1949).

2. It subsequently became clear that the 'forma' which I had called '*typica*' is a species distinct from *L. ocellatus*, and in a taxonomic account (Cei, 1950) of this group of frogs I established the name *Leptodactylus chaquensis* Cei, 1950 (p. 417) for the taxon. A further discussion of the taxonomy and distribution of the species is given in Cei (1980, pp. 348–352).

3. Nobody has ever used '*typica*' as a valid species-group name, or since Cei (1950) even cited it in the synonymy of *L. chaquensis*. In contrast, the name *L. chaquensis* has been used in a very large number of works, and I give here some examples.

Taxonomic works: Cei, 1980; Frost, 1985; De La Riva, Kohler, Lötters & Reichle, 2000;

Faunistic works: Lynch, 1971; Gallardo, 1979; Gudynas, 1984; Lavilla, Cruz & Scrocchi, 1995; De La Riva & Maldonado, 1999;

Biological and biochemical works: Erspamer, Roseghini & Cei, 1964; Barrio, 1966; Heyer, 1969; Duellman & Trueb, 1986; Roseghini, Erspamer, Falconieri Erspamer & Cei, 1986; Yanosky, Mercolli & Dixon, 1995.

A list of 41 works using the name *Leptodactylus chaquensis* Cei, 1950 has been given to the Commission Secretariat, and more could be supplied.

4. I have become aware, as a result of a message (August 2000) from Dr Darrel Frost, that the terms '*typica*' and '*reticulata*' which I had used in 1948 (see para. 1 above) to refer to two supposed 'formas' (hence their feminine endings) of

Leptodactylus ocellatus are, under Article 45.6.4 of the Code, deemed to be available names established at subspecific rank (contrary to my then intention). The name *typica* (or *typicus*) Cei, 1948 is thus a senior synonym of the specific name of *L. chaquensis* Cei, 1950. However, since *L. chaquensis* has had very extensive usage but nobody has ever used (or even published) the combination *L. typicus* it would be very confusing now to introduce the latter name.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress the name *typica* Cei, 1948, as published in the combination *Leptodactylus ocellatus forma typica*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *chacuensis* Cei, 1950, as published in the binomen *Leptodactylus chacuensis*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *typica* Cei, 1948, as published in the combination *Leptodactylus ocellatus forma typica* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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